



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE
CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE- June 19, 2013
For Immediate Release

Contact: Stacey Swain, Communication and Policy Advisor
(662) 325-3393
Email: Stacey@mdac.ms.gov

Department of Agriculture Revokes Philadelphia Resident's Landscaping License

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce has revoked a Philadelphia, Mississippi, resident's landscaping license for home repair fraud. Tellas Moore, owner of Doby's Enterprises, formerly known as Peoples Choice Landscape Services, pled guilty to one felony count of home repair fraud in 2011 for failing to complete landscaping and other home repair and improvement services despite having accepted more than \$5,000.00 in advance payments from a Neshoba County homeowner. The charge was brought against Moore by the Neshoba County District Attorney's Office following an investigation by the Neshoba County Sheriff's Office. Moore was later sentenced to three years in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections and ordered to pay all court costs and \$22,529.00 in restitution.

Due to the nature of his offense, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce has revoked Moore's landscaping license to prohibit him from advertising or soliciting business to secure future contracts for landscaping services, which include the selection and installation of plants.

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce administers the licensing and regulation of landscapers through the Bureau of Plant Industry to protect the public from fraudulent practices and substandard work. In order to legally advertise or solicit business to perform landscaping services in the State of Mississippi, individuals must obtain a license from the Bureau of Plant Industry by demonstrating knowledge and training in horticultural practices. For additional information, contact the Bureau of Plant Industry at (662) 325-3390 or toll-free at (888) 257-1285.

###